

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108^{th} congress, first session United States of America

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2003

No. 8

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Dr. John A. Huffman of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA.

PRAYER.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, You created us and You know us intimately. You know even better than do we why we entered the public arena. Our aspirations of service for others were and still are so high. Yet You know how hammered we are in our personal and professional lives by the realities of relational tensions, the complexity of issues, the ambiguity of solutions, our partisan agendas, and the pressures, political and financial, to remain professionally vital. These and more cause us to lose our focus on why we are doing what we are doing. Renew our vision when we temporarily lose it.

Dear Lord, may the zeal and enthusiasm of ones new to this Chamber be melded with the experience of the veterans into a synergism of governance for the common good that is both faithful to deeply held convictions while sensitive to doing together, across party lines, that which will strengthen this Nation in the challenges we face. Help us to uphold righteousness, justice, mercy and peacemaking in all affairs, domestic and international.

May our individual and corporate prayer be that of the Psalmist who vulnerably cried out: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

Finally, thank You, Lord, for our brother Lloyd Ogilvie who, as Chaplain, has given 8 sterling years of service marked by dignity, sensitivity, eloquence, spirituality, and the modeling of the right priorities, as he soon leaves this office to stand caringly by his beloved Mary Jane. Bless him as You, through him, have blessed us.

In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM H. FRIST, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, pending is the Byrd amendment. There will be 2 hours of debate on the amendment. Members should be advised that a vote will occur sometime between noon and 12:30 p.m. today.

Following the disposition of the Byrd amendment, other amendments and votes are likely. A late night is unavoidable. A number of our colleagues have asked about scheduling for today and tomorrow. My response has been that in 18 days the President of the United States will be delivering a budget to this body for consideration and for the next fiscal year. We are already about a quarter of the way through this fiscal year, yet the Senate has not yet addressed the 11 appropriations spending bills. That process is now under way.

We will be having our first vote in 21/2 hours. I look forward to a very productive day. Depending on how productive the Senate is today and tonight, and we may go well into the evening be-

cause we are working against, hopefully, a coming recess, it is going to be incumbent upon us to be disciplined, to be focused. All of our colleagues will want to talk on every single issue. Clearly they have that opportunity. I do ask, in the consideration of the number of amendments on either side. that we be disciplined on both sides of the aisle so we can finish this bill before we leave.

We will be here through tomorrow; it could well be tomorrow night. It is my goal—my goal—as we are in the early stages on this bill, to finish this bill before we leave. People have asked, Could that possibly mean Saturday morning? The answer to that is ves. I think it is that important that we move forward.

If we are unable to finish tonight or tomorrow or tomorrow night or Saturday or decide that going into Saturday is not the appropriate way to address it, we absolutely will be back here Tuesday morning to finish these appropriations bills. Whether we finish it then Tuesday or later in the week, it remains on how disciplined we are.

I encourage my colleagues to consider the importance of getting this unfinished business done as soon as possible so we can move ahead with the Nation's business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EN-SIGN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL **YEAR 2003**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.J. Res. 2, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

